

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 2298 – HB 3059

March 13, 2012

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014623): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires the Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to incorporate into existing programs, a new pathway for alternative teacher licensure that will authorize individuals who have expertise gained from professional experience or academic training to go directly into a classroom as a teacher. Such candidates will be authorized to teach in grades seven through twelve and are required to possess at least a baccalaureate degree. Individuals seeking licensure through this path will not be required to complete a course of instruction in pedagogy at the time of entering the classroom or later.

In lieu of pedagogy instruction, requires the local education agencies (LEAs) that hire program participants to provide a program of mentoring or peer coaching and guided support and training in effective classroom techniques that are appropriate to the subject and grades being taught, as specified by the SBE, for each person in the transitional licensure program. Authorizes this training to be provided by a higher education institution or an alternative training authority. This training is not required to be completed before program participants enter the classroom; however, it must be completed before the beginning of the second year of teaching if a reasonable opportunity has been given to the teacher by the LEA. Authorizes training to be provided in the summer between the teacher's first and second year.

Requires program participants to take and pass a test that measures professional knowledge and a standardized or criterion-referenced test for each area of endorsement before a transitional licensure is issued to them. Requires participants to be evaluated by the same evaluation process, rewards, penalties, as traditionally licensed teachers.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$80,700/Recurring

Local Expenditures – Net Impact – Not Significant/Permissive

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$18,000/One-Time

Local Expenditures – Net Impact – Not Significant/Permissive

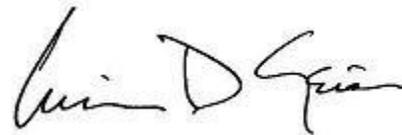
SB 2298 – HB 3059

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- According to the SBE, there will be no increases in personnel to add this pathway to existing alternative licensure programs.
- The SBE will convene three stakeholder meetings to develop and finalize policies and procedures to create the program guidelines at a cost of \$6,000 per meeting for travel, meeting materials, and other supplies for a total increase in expenditures of \$18,000 (\$6,000 x 3).
- No fiscal impact to the Department of Education to assist with the development of this program.
- The number of individuals who will join the new program and become teachers through this licensure pathway is unknown.
- The salary and benefits of teachers hired under this pathway is unknown and is dependent upon the LEA that is hiring the teacher.
- LEAs are not required to hire teachers from the new transitional licensure program. Any increase in local expenditures for salary, training, professional development, peer coaching, or other training will be permissive. It is assumed that LEAs will use existing funding, either BEP or otherwise, to fund teacher salary and benefits and professional development.
- LEAs will not be required to start new programs of support for teachers hired from the new transitional licensure program but could use existing support programs.
- Any net increase in permissive local expenditures to hire teachers licensed under this pathway and to begin support programs will be not significant.
- Any increase in expenditures for taking tests will be borne by the program participant. It is assumed that the Praxis or another standardized test will be taken by the teacher before being issued a transitional license.
- Any increase in state or local expenditures to evaluate teachers from the new transitional licensure program will be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/msg